Eight Reasons to Praise the Lord!

3 Milwaukee’s Priestly Ordination
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6 Diaconate Ordinations

△ The first to be ordained, Milwaukee’s Fr. William Arnold, Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Fr. Andrew Infanger and Fr. John LoCoco celebrate with their since-ordained classmates, Fr. Kyle Laylan (La Crosse), Fr. José López Vargas (Green Bay), Fr. Barry Saylor (La Crosse) and Fr. Richard Rhinehart (Superior).
A Variety of Vacations

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer edition of SALT. As you read this, our seminarians are on “summer vacation.” I put those words in quotation marks because most of our seminarians do not spend their summer vacation in the traditional sense. Much of their time is devoted to various pastoral formation programs. Some of these programs are:

• Clinical Pastoral Education (hospital ministry)
• The Institute for Priestly Formation
• The Rome Experience
• Holy Land Archeology Project
• Catholic Youth Expedition
• Totus Tuus
• Spanish immersion
• Diaconate internships
• Parish internships
• International sister-parish visits and pilgrimages
• Mission trips with parishes
• Additional theology courses
• Vocation office work
• Maintenance work at the Seminary

Our seminarians are dedicated to strengthening their intellectual and pastoral formation, including outside of the classroom. It is beneficial for them to have a multitude of experiences, so that they develop well-rounded personalities. Through their experiences, they truly become renaissance men with healthy worldviews. Our seminarians do take some time during the summer months to relax and rejuvenate too, which is good for the soul.

Thank you for your support and concern for our men.

May God bless you with a restful summer.

Grace and Peace,

Father John Hemsing, Rector

To Everything, There Is a Season

It is with a touch of sadness but immense gratitude that we say farewell to two of our formation faculty members. Fr. Thomas DeVries has been our esteemed director of spiritual formation for eight years and is now moving to senior priest status. His gift for spiritual direction will be deeply missed by the men, who regard him as a beloved spiritual father. Fr. Robert Kroll, S.J. will step into his position effective July 1.

Fr. Alvan Amadi has served as the director of worship and director of liturgical formation for four years. A priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, Fr. Amadi is returning to his diocese to serve as administrator of St. Mary Parish in Algoma and priest celebrant of Holy Rosary Parish in Kewaunee. His love and reverence for the liturgy truly helped to elevate our worship. Fr. Brad Krawczyk will take on his roles on July 1.

We give thanks to God for the life of Fr. Melvin Michalski, who passed away on May 20, twelve hours short of his 75th birthday. Fr. Mel served on our faculty for many years and continued to live at the Seminary in retirement. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord!
A Magnificent Day for Milwaukee

May 19 was a day of joy as four of our men were ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Ordained with them was Fr. Vincent Nghiep Van Pham from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Vietnam.

Fr. William Arnold will serve at Christ King and St. Bernard Parishes, Wauwatosa.

Fr. Andrew Infanger will serve at St. Frances Cabrini and Immaculate Conception parishes, West Bend.

Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz will serve at St. Dominic Parish, Brookfield.

Fr. John LoCoco will return to Rome to complete his studies.

(Deadlines did not allow for the dioceses of Superior, Green Bay or La Crosse’s ordinations to be included in this issue. Watch for photographs of their rites in our fall newsletter.)
Meet Your New Priests
What their brother seminarians have to say about them

Father Andrew Infanger (Milwaukee)
• If there was a prank, or something out of the ordinary, the first suspect was always Fr. Andrew.
• He epitomizes the joy of the Gospel.
• He has incredible energy. He has been known to do push-ups in the middle of a volleyball game.
• He is a man defined by his love for God, Jesus and Mary.
• He is creative and full of ideas.
• Don't leave Fr. Andrew alone with your Alexa, or you will walk into your room to cheesy 90's music.
• He has a heart for the poor.

Father William Arnold (Milwaukee)
• Fr. Will proclaims the Gospel with confidence.
• He is a hard worker and will be an excellent priest.
• He is transparent and speaks his mind.
• He is one of the most sincere men I have ever met.
• He is ridiculously generous.
• He always helped with chores, even when he wasn’t assigned.
• Fr. Will was one of the most respected men in the house.

Father Kyle Laylan (La Crosse)
• Fr. Kyle embodies what I think of when Christ calls us to love God and love neighbor.
• He is a man of prayer and radical charity.
• Fr. Kyle taught me how to be present to people. He treats every encounter as if he was meeting Christ himself.
• He is someone I have looked up to as an example to follow.
• His love of the Lord will be a great gift to his parishioners.
• You will not meet a more authentic man.
• He talks to you as if you were the only person in the world.

Father Aaron Laskiewicz (Milwaukee)
• Fr. Aaron is a great servant-leader.
• He is very kind, warm and approachable.
• His friendly demeanor will be a tremendous attribute as he ministers to people.
• He is the most natural pastor I have ever met.
• He introduced a Polish flavor to the Rathskellar with pierogi and his mom’s famous chili.
• He is always good for a "slap on the back" of encouragement.
• His biggest challenge in being a priest will be having to work on Packers’ game days.
**Father John LoCoco**  
(*Milwaukee*)

- Fr. John is very orderly. He likes things to be organized.
- Despite having one of the fullest schedules at the seminary, he still made it a point to visit his friends’ rooms, just to say 'hi.'
- He’s incredibly smart.
- He is full of life and has a witty sense of humor.
- I should have voted for him when he ran for student body president at Marquette High.
- He is always looking to make people comfortable, which is a real gift.
- He may or may not have a beard right now.

**Father José López Vargas**  
(*Green Bay*)

- Fr. José is an expert at Spanglish.
- He always kept the door to his room open for everyone.
- There is no one more difficult to defend on the basketball court. He is all in on the court, but more importantly, he’s all in for the Gospel.
- His puns are terrible, but they catch you totally off guard, and you can’t help but laugh.
- He is one of the most sincerely prayerful people I have ever met. Green Bay is lucky to have him.
- He is a soccer hero.
- Any parish will be really blessed to have him for a spiritual father.

**Father Richard Rhinehart**  
(*Superior*)

- Fr. Rich loves to laugh, particularly during a light-hearted moment in a homily.
- He loves the Church and will be a blessing to God’s people in the Diocese of Superior.
- He has been a great friend.
- He is genuine, gentle and kind.
- He is a man of great patience and perseverance.
- He often describes how we need to write a “blank check” for Christ, being open to whatever He is going to do.
- He is the only person who would wear a Hawaiian shirt to Mass with Cardinal Harvey.

**Father Barry Saylor**  
(*La Crosse*)

- Fr. Barry helped our seminary community navigate through difficult conversations.
- He has a pastor’s heart.
- He is the king of laser tag. Hands down.
- The best word to describe him is joyful.
- He is kindhearted and warm.
- He is one of the gentlest souls you will encounter, and the love that flows from this gentleness will radiate through his priestly ministry.
- He bridges heaven and earth by height and holiness.
Servants of the Word

Six of our seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate this spring! Deacons Nicholas Baumgardner, Jordan Berghouse, Alexander Nwosu, Sergio Rodriguez and Jonathon Schmeckel were ordained for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by Bishop James Schuerman on April 21 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Deacon William Evans was ordained for the Diocese of Green Bay by Bishop David Ricken on June 3 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

As these six new deacons journeyed ever-closer to the priesthood, our first theology men took their own significant step when they were instituted into the ministry of lector by Bishop Joseph Perry of the Archdiocese of Chicago on March 17.

May all of these men proclaim the Word of God well!
Canoe Trip for Young Adult Men

As part of our outreach to young adult men who are discerning the possibility of the priesthood, Fr. Luke Strand will be hosting his annual canoe trip. This canoeing and camping excursion along the Wisconsin River encourages discovering God in the beauty of nature, the rigor of sport, and the companionship of community. The canoe trip is open to young men ages 18-35 and will take place July 26-29.

For more information, contact Emma Hegarty at ehegarty@sfs.edu, (414) 747-6437, or visit www.thinkpriest.org/events.

Visitation’s Vocations

Milwaukee’s ordination of priests was a standing-room only Mass, and a great number of the congregants hailed from St. Mary’s Visitation Parish in Elm Grove. That is because two of the four men who were ordained for the archdiocese, Fr. Will Arnold and Fr. John LoCoco, are sons of the parish. In fact, St. Mary’s has produced several other priests and religious in the last 10 years, and they have another seminarian, Patrick Magnor, in formation right now.

Fr. Peter Berger is the pastor of this blessed parish, and he feels there are three hallmarks of St. Mary’s that define it – an emphasis on prayer, Catholic tradition, and family. These elements also happen to be the things that encourage and develop vocations.

Patrick said, “Before the idea of priesthood ever crossed my mind, St. Mary’s played a small but important role in helping me maintain my faith during my years of college. The year I graduated high school, the parish gave all graduates The Handbook of Prayer as a graduation gift. I took it with me to college, and as it sat on my desk, it served as a continual (and sometimes much-needed) reminder to stay close to Jesus and his Church.

“Later when I was discerning if the Lord was calling me to seminary, I spent a lot of time in the parish’s adoration chapel. It was in that chapel that I felt the Lord was calling me to ‘jump out of the boat’ and apply to seminary.”

That chapel has been home to continuous Eucharistic Adoration for almost 33 years! Fr. Peter believes God is blessing the community for its years of devotion, and one of those blessings is vocations.

Fr. Will shared, “My vocation comes from a devotion to the Eucharist. This is not only from the availability of the Eucharist in the adoration chapel, but also from the availability of a Mass time that works for average people. An early morning Mass is offered and is one of the few around. I think that this nurtures a culture of devotion to the Eucharist, and a love, respect and understanding of the necessity of the priest on the part of the people there.”

Fr. John’s mother, Lydia LoCoco, spoke from the heart when she said, “Our parish is made up of so many generous families – husbands and wives who are generous in accepting children, but also spiritually generous in spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, praying and begging God for shepherds for his Church.”

It’s working. Thank you, St. Mary’s Visitation Parish!
Pallium Scholarship Benefit Golf Outing and Dinner Auction

Monday, July 30 • Wisconsin Country Club

We hope you will join us at our 15th annual Pallium Scholarship Benefit on Monday, July 30! This is your chance to play the magnificent Wisconsin Country Club while helping us to raise scholarship funds. (It’s an excellent excuse to take the day off.) If you don’t golf, please join us for the evening cocktail reception and dinner auction. It’s a festive night with good friends for a great cause. Register at www.sfs.edu/golf before we reach capacity!

Annual Seminary Dinner

Friday, September 28 • Wisconsin Center

This year’s Annual Seminary Dinner promises to be a very special night as we honor the priesthood. Our theme, A Holy Sacrifice, points to the life our seminarians are preparing for – a life of sacrifice for the Lord. Be assured that theirs is a joyful offering, and we intend to celebrate it!

We hope you will celebrate with us. Bring your parish priest, and fill a table of 10 with people who support priests and the formation of future priests. If you are coming alone, we will seat you with others to make sure you have a memorable evening.

The excitement of over a thousand Catholics in the ballroom is electric. It means a great deal to our seminarians to see such an evident display of encouragement, and yet, experience has shown that the evening is even more uplifting for our guests, who leave with renewed hope for the future of our Church. Make sure you are a part of this exceptional event!

We would be grateful if you would take a leadership role in sponsoring our dinner. Visit www.sfs.edu/dinner or call (414)747-6463 for details.